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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

SMITH et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2551-49; Confirmation No. 3620

Appl. No. 09/662,462

Group: 1634

Filed: September 15, 2000

Examiner: Goldberg

For: NUCLEIC ACID PROBES AND METHODS FOR DETECTING CLINICALLY

IMPORTANT FUNGAL PATHOGENS

December 3, 2003

OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST

The Examiner is requested to return a completely initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 Form, which was executed by the Examiner on April 2, 2001, and includes the OIPE date-stamp of February 1, 2001. Specifically, the PTO-1449 Form was returned without the Examiner's initials on the left-hand column next to the following citations: WO 98 11257 A, WO 99 06596 A, WO 96 21741 A, WO 98 50584 A, and WO 95 29260 A.

These documents were believed to be submitted with the PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner has not lined-through these references and it is believed that the lack of the Examiner's initials on the PTO-1449 Form was merely an oversight. For completeness however the Examiner is requested to return a completely initialed PTO-1449 Form as

SMITH et al. Appl. No. 09/662,462 December 3, 2003

confirmation that these references have been considered and so that the same may be printed on the face of the patent issuing from this application. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

B. J. Sadoff Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:plb 1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

iner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

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